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## Trump's Picks Are All Neocon Warhawks Ferociously Devoted to Israel

MIKE WHITNEY • NOVEMBER 13, 2024 • 3,100 WORDS • 195 COMMENTS [Q&A](#)



Trump's hawkish lineup is starting to look like a reunion for the worst of US interventionists. The man who said 'no wars' hired a cabinet that's clearly thirsting for the next one. @ghida\_fakhry

It's not Trump's pro-Israel cabinet. It's Israel's pseudo-American cabinet. Alon Mizrahi @alon\_mizrahi

Awww fuck! It's over before it even started! Nick@NickJ132388

If George W. Bush was elected to a third term in office, this is what his cabinet would look like. Rubio, Waltz, Stefanik, Hegseth. Not a peacenik among them. Not an antiwar candidate among them. Not even a non-interventionist among them. Every single pick is a hard-boiled, right-wing war-hawk that is committed to marching in lockstep with the world's most notorious pariah-state, Israel.

Let's start with Trump's pick for Secretary of Defense, the man whose job it is to oversee the War Department and act as the principal defense policymaker and adviser. Trump chose Fox television host Pete Hegseth, "a decorated Army veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as Guantanamo Bay." Hegseth has no administrative skills or experience, but he is a Trump loyalist who shares the president's views on "woke" policies in the military. More importantly, Hegseth is dyed-in-the-wool Israel aficionado who thinks the interests of the Jewish state are inextricably linked to those of the United States. Check out this short excerpt from Pete Hegseth's book, "American Crusade, Our Fight to Stay Free" (2020) that was posted on Michael Tracey Twitter site:

"Simply put: if you don't understand why Israel matters and why it is so central to the story of Western civilization—with America being its greatest manifestation—then you don't live in history. **America's story is inextricably linked to Judeo-Christian history and the modern state of Israel.** You can love America without loving Israel—but that tells me your knowledge of the Bible and Western civilization is woefully incomplete.....

**If you love America, you should love Israel.** We share history, we share faith, and we share freedom. We love free people, free expression, and free markets. And whereas America is blessed with two big, beautiful oceans to protect it, Israel is surrounded on all sides by countries that either used to seek, or still seek, to wipe the nation off the map.

The battle wages on Israeli soil as well. With each trip I take to Israel for FOX Nation, and on my personal time, I discover a new way in which Islamists and their leftist enablers seek to deny Jewish history and heritage. Today, Islamists in Jerusalem are attempting to claim that the Holy Temple built by King Solomon and rebuilt by Herod never existed. Apparently, they want us all to believe that Jews—from Abraham to Jesus—never sacrificed, built, or worshipped on that particular piece of real estate. "Temple denial" is yet another tool by which they seek to erase the Jews and the Jewish state. If that isn't delusional enough, on a recent trip to Bethlehem—the birthplace of Jesus—I discovered that Palestinians now claim that Jesus was not in fact Jewish but instead a Palestinian. Try that one on for size—or watch my two FOX Nation documentaries on the subject: Battle in the Holy City and Battle in Bethlehem." [\*\*Michael Tracey@mtracey\*\*](mailto:Michael.Tracey@mtracey)

A Secretary of Defense doesn't have to be impartial to fulfil his responsibilities to the president and the American people, but it does make one wonder how Hegseth's pro-Israel zealotry will impact the way he implements US policy. If, for example, Hegseth was ordered to stop the delivery of all bombs and lethal weaponry to Israel while ceasefire negotiations with Hamas took place, would a Christian Zionist like Hegseth obey such an order or act according to his own deeply-felt religious convictions?

I can't answer that, but the obvious conflict of interest should have been a red flag for Trump if his goal was actually "America First".

Oh, and did we mention that Hegseth is also an Iran hawk, which appears to be a basic requirement for any position on the Trump team. This is from *Axios*:

Alongside his strong support for Israel, Hegseth has also expressed strong positions regarding Iran... **He had called the Iranian revolutionary government an "evil regime", and in 2020 said that if Iran wanted "to come back to the table for talks on their nuclear capabilities" it should do so "limping and begging."...**

"Sometimes we have moments, and I happen to believe we can't kick the can down the road any longer in trying to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear bomb," Hegseth said in an appearance on Fox & Friends.

**"What better time than now to say 'we're starting the clock, you've got a week, you've got X amount of time before we start taking out your energy production facilities. We take out key infrastructure, we take out your missile sites, we take out nuclear developments, we take out port capabilities.'" [Trump appoints pro-Israel, Iran hawk Pete Hegseth for secretary of defense](#), *Axios***

Does that sound like a reasonable approach to you or the fast-track to a regional war? And how does this fit with all the non-interventionist gobbledygook that Trump was spewing before the election? Was it all for show? And, please, don't tell me that Hegseth wasn't fully vetted or that Trump was unaware of his political views before he picked him. That's nonsense. Hegseth is a hard-nosed, prowar jingoist who recently dismissed public demands for a ceasefire as "extortion on behalf of Hamas" (say what??) and who thinks the only problem with Biden's Middle East policy was that it wasn't tough enough.' And so it is with all Trump's picks. They're all ferociously devoted to Israel and they're all gung-ho for a war with Iran.

**[Pete Hegseth on dual loyalty](#)**—Wow.

Here's how the typically temperate Daniel McAdams summed up Hegseth:

**President-elect Donald Trump's designated Secretary of Defense is a certifiable lunatic. A cultist in the manner of Manson. Literally someone who needs to be in a mental hospital.** Who craves an apocalyptic war to end all of mankind so that his twisted understanding of God will come down and slaughter all (including Jews) who do not convert to his cult's beliefs. **This is a**

**truly dangerous person.** This is the person running our military machine. The madmen have taken the asylum. [Daniel McAdams @DanielLMcAdams](#)

Yikes. Looks like Don Rumsfeld won't be our worst Sec-Def after all.

Then there's Marco Rubio or "Little Marco" as Trump used to affectionately call him during the 2016 campaign. Rubio—who Trump picked as Secretary of State—is another shoot-first-and-ask-questions-later warhawk whose views veer only slightly from those of John Bolton and Lindsay Graham. In a recent video by peace activist Medea Benjamin, Benjamin—who is shown standing outside Rubio's senate office next to a giant flag of Israel—says the following:

We are here outside Marco Rubio's office. You have probably heard that he has been picked by Trump to be the next Secretary of State. We have been to his office before, and **we were always curious that there was an Israeli flag outside. And I thought maybe he would take the flag down to show his allegiance is 100% to the US government and not to the Israeli government. But, no, lo and behold, the flag is still here,** which gives you a pretty good indication of where his allegiance is going to be as Secretary of State. [Medea Benjamin@medeabenzamin](#)

Imagine if Rubio placed a Russian flag outside his office, or a Palestinian flag? What do you think the reaction would be? Is it really appropriate for a US senator to display the banner of a foreign power in front of his taxpayer-provided office? Here's more background on Rubio [from Michael Tracey](#):

Marco Rubio would arguably be the most hardcore interventionist Secretary of State for an incoming administration in decades, perhaps rivaling Hillary Clinton. Definitely outpaces Colin Powell, who was in the relatively more "realist" faction of the G. W. Bush Administration

And here's more on Rubio from the horse's mouth, *The Jewish Telegraphic Agency*:

**President-elect Donald Trump is filling out his national security team with pro-Israel hawks who favor maximum pressure on Iran...** Reports Monday said Trump planned to name two Floridian allies to top jobs: Sen. Marco Rubio will be tapped to be secretary of state, and Rep. Michael Waltz will be his national security adviser.

**Both men have said Israel should not be prevented from staging a direct attack on Iran's nuclear weapons program.** That stance echoes Trump who, before the election, urged Israel to "Do what you have to do." Trump had criticized President Joe Biden for confining Israel to only hitting military sites, but not nuclear ones, in a retaliatory strike....

Trump has yet to formally name Rubio, but his pending appointments has been widely reported and **the Republican Jewish Coalition, which has a longstanding relationship with Rubio, congratulated him.**

"President Trump's choice of Senator Rubio for this critical role sends a message loudly and clearly: **The days of weakness and appeasement are over,**" the RJC said in a statement on Monday night. "We know that with Senator Rubio leading the State Department, America will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our allies and confront our enemies."

**Rubio came up in Florida politics in part because of the backing of billionaire auto dealership magnate Norman Braman, a past president of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. He is known to be close to Miriam Adelson, the pro-Israel casino magnate who funneled \$100 million into Trump's campaign this year.....**

In October, after Iran barraged Israel with missiles, and as Israel's conflict with the Lebanese terror group Hezbollah was escalating, he tweeted, **"Israel should respond to Iran the way the U.S. would respond if some country launched 180 missiles at us.** And they should do in Lebanon what we would be demanding our leaders do if terrorists were launching anti-tank rockets at us from a neighboring country, forcing 60000 Americans to evacuate their homes and farms for almost a year."

In the 2016 election, she and her late husband, Sheldon Adelson, were close to deciding whether they would back Rubio or Texas Sen. Ted Cruz as the Republican nominee. Then Trump pulled ahead of the pack and Sheldon Adelson decided to endorse the reality TV star.

Rubio has said for years that the United States should not stand in the way of an Israeli strike on Iran's nuclear program. [Trump taps Iran hawks Marco Rubio, Mike Waltz for top national security role](#) s, *The Jewish Telegraphic Agency*

Funny how much influence people like Adelson have when it comes to selecting who is going to lead the country. And, it doesn't stop there either because—as we can see—a hundred million bucks not only buys you a president but everyone in the president's cabinet as well. Sounds like a bargain to me, although seriously corrupt too. It is convenient, however, when publications,

like the *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, explain exactly how the system works and then boast about how it serves their overall interests. What's that saying about "the tail wagging the dog"?



Then there's Mike Waltz, Trump's pick for national security advisor who is—surprise, surprise—another warmongering neocon who, in Trump's words, will be "a strong champion of my America First Foreign Policy agenda, and a tremendous champion of our pursuit of Peace through Strength!"

Peace?? Not bloody likely!

In a nutshell: **Waltz opposed leaving Afghanistan, he thinks we haven't been supportive enough of Ukraine, and he also thinks that Iran needs a good "punch in the nose"**; which I would interpret as tacit support for military action. Here's Michael Tracey's take:

At the "America First" summit in DC, Rep. Mike Waltz (R-FL) says **he just returned from Ukraine and is now calling for the deployment of US military "advisors" directly into the war** to operate US weapons systems alongside Ukrainian forces. "Let's win this damn war!" he proclaims Michael Tracey @mtracey

Troops on the ground?? Is that what Waltz wants?

Sure sounds like it, but how does that fit with Trump's elusive peace agenda? Here's more from Tracey:

**Mike Waltz, the incoming National Security Advisor, worked for Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney.** Remember like a week ago when everybody was



absolutely convinced there was some giant ideological chasm between Trump and the Cheneys? Michael Tracey @mtracey

Waltz says “punch Iran in the nose”



Here's more from Caitlin Johnstone:

Like (John) Bolton, Waltz is a warmongering freak. Journalist Michael Tracey has been filling up his Twitter page since the announcement with examples of Waltz's insane hawkishness, including **his support for letting Ukraine use US weapons to strike deep into Russian territory, criticizing Biden for not escalating aggressively enough in Ukraine, advocating bombing Iran, opposing the US military withdrawal from Afghanistan**, and naming Iran, North Korea, China, Russia and Venezuela as “on the march” against the United States toward global conflict. The mainstream press are calling Waltz a “China hawk”, but from the look of things he's a war-horny hawk toward all the official enemies of the United States. The Incoming Trump Administration Is Already Filling Up With War Sluts, [Caitlin Johnstone@caitoz](#)

And here's more from the *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*:

**Waltz has been among Israel's most robust backers in the U.S. House of Representatives and has also said Israel should not hesitate to hit Iran's nuclear sites and oil fields.** Biden had discouraged such actions, fearing such attacks would trigger a full-scale regional war which would draw in the United States.

“So far...it's important to note what hasn't been hit in Iran,” Walz said in an Oct. 25 tweet, listing an Iranian oil facility and a nuclear facility. “This might be Israel's last best chance to diminish Iran's nuclear program and shut down their cash. Did Biden/Harris pressure Israel once again to do less than it should? [Jewish Telegraphic Agency](#)”

What this excerpt shows, is that Trump's picks are looking for an opportunity to attack Iran. The prevailing view seems to be that Biden was “soft” on Iran and that now is the time to take more assertive “muscular” action to ensure Israel's security. As we noted earlier, all of Trump's picks appear to share this view.

Still think Trump wants to end the foreign wars?

Trump also picked fiery Congresswoman Elise Stefanik (NY) as US ambassador to the United Nations

Here's Tracey:

Elise Stefanik, Trump's new pick for UN Ambassador, is in some ways **more ideologically zealous than Nikki Haley**, Trump's previous occupant of that role. **Stefanik was integral in launching the crusade to whip up the confabulated anti-Semitism panic over the past year, and was showered with Adelson awards for her services** —all while successfully insinuating herself into the Trump political operation. Stefanik and Haley have no discernible substantive differences; **Stefanik has vehemently denounced the Biden-Harris administration for insufficiently arming Ukraine and Israel, and allegedly kowtowing to China** —she also denounces the Afghanistan withdrawal on principle. **Nor are there any discernible policy differences between Stefanik and Liz Cheney**, her predecessor as Chairwoman of the House GOP conference [Michael Tracey](#)

Looks like Adelson was a player in Stefanik's career as well. Isn't it amazing how much power Israeli billionaires have over American politics? The whole system is awash in the filthy money



of foreign donors. We are a Third-world sh\*\*hole country; no doubt about it. Here's Caitlin Johnstone again:

**Stefanik is best known for her congressional efforts to stomp out free speech on college campuses**, making a lie of Trump's lip service to the importance of First Amendment rights. She's a hawkish swamp monster whose political career was primed in some of the most odious neoconservative think tanks in Washington, and opposes placing any limits on US military support for Israel. Earlier this year **Stefanik actually flew to Israel to give a speech before the Israeli Knesset vowing to help stop the "antisemitism" of protesters against Israel's genocidal atrocities at American universities.** [Caitlin Johnstone](#)



Here's a congratulatory note Stefanik got from the ADL's Jonathan Greenblatt after she was picked by Trump:

Mazel Tov to @EliseStefanik on her nomination to be the next US Ambassador to the  
**@UN Rep. Stefanik has been a critical partner and absolutely fearless in fighting campus antisemitism.** I'm excited to work with her to combat anti-Jewish hate & anti-Israel bias on the world stage. [@JGreenblattADL](#)

Naturally, if you are getting love letters from Jonathan Greenblatt, you're playing on the wrong team, in this case, Team Genocide. Stefanik appears to be solidly in that camp.

Of course, this is just the tip of the iceberg, but there's enough here for readers to chew on for a while. What's clear is that the much-ballyhooed announcement that Trump would not pick either Mike Pompeo or Nikki Haley for cabinet positions was an obvious head-fake aimed at misleading his supporters. Trump's backers were led to believe that 'things had changed' when in fact, the only thing that's changed is that Trump has officially joined the family of Swamp creatures he pledged to remove.

We'll let Caitlin Johnstone have the last word:

The only intellectually honest reason to support Trump is because you're a garden variety Republican and you support standard Republican agendas like lower taxes on the rich and low tolerance for human diversity. **There is no honest basis to support Trump on antiwar grounds, or because you want the swamp of corruption to be drained from Washington.** This was obvious to anyone who paid attention the last time he was president, but it is glaringly obvious now from all the warmongering swamp monsters he's been packing his cabinet with. **This narrative so-called "MAGA Republicans" have about themselves as some new special breed of Republican who are meaningfully different from the Republicans of the past simply is not born out by any kind of material evidence. They're not draining the swamp. They're not fighting the deep state. They're not ending the wars.** They're doing all the gross stuff Republicans have always tried to do while LARPing as brave rebels. I despise the entirety of the Republican Party; it's one of the most evil things humanity has ever produced. Caitlin [Johnstone@caitoz](mailto:Johnstone@caitoz)

Wish I'd said that!

